

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-54 (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended): A method for detecting a Norovirus in a specimen comprising:

providing a specimen in an alkaline specimen buffer at a pH ranging from 9 to 10;

contacting said [[a]] specimen ~~to be tested for the presence of Norovirus~~ with an immobilized anti-Norovirus antibody ~~at a pH ranging from 9 to 10~~ for a time and under conditions sufficient for binding to occur, wherein contacting between the specimen and antibody takes place at a pH ranging from 9 to 10; and

detecting binding between the specimen and the anti-Norovirus antibody thereby detecting Norovirus in the specimen;

wherein said alkaline specimen buffer optionally comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an animal globulin, a surfactant, a water-soluble polymer and a salt.

56. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 55, further comprising contacting said specimen with a second labeled anti-Norovirus antibody.

57. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 55, which is a sandwich method wherein said specimen is contacted with an immobilized anti-Norovirus antibody and then simultaneously or subsequently contacted with labeled anti-Norovirus antibody.

58. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen is a food.

59. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen is a bodily tissue, blood or another bodily fluid, vomit or stool.

60. (Currently Amended): A method for detecting a Sapovirus in a specimen comprising:

providing a specimen in an alkaline specimen buffer at a pH ranging from 9 to 10;

contacting said [[a]] specimen ~~to be tested for the presence of Sapovirus~~ with an immobilized anti-Sapovirus antibody ~~at a pH ranging from 9 to 10~~ for a time and under conditions sufficient for binding to occur, wherein contacting between the specimen and antibody takes place at a pH ranging from 9 to 10; and

detecting binding between the specimen and the anti-Sapovirus antibody thereby detecting Sapovirus in the specimen;

wherein said alkaline specimen buffer optionally comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an animal globulin, a surfactant, a water-soluble polymer and a salt.

61. (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of claim 60, further comprising contacting said specimen with a second labeled anti-Sapovirus antibody.

62. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 60, which is a sandwich method wherein said specimen is contacted with an immobilized anti-Sapovirus antibody and then simultaneously or subsequently contacted with labeled anti-Sapovirus antibody.

63. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen is a food.

64. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen is a bodily tissue, blood or another bodily fluid, vomit or stool.

65. (New): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen buffer contains an animal globulin.

66. (New): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen buffer contains a surfactant.

67. (New): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen buffer contains a water-soluble polymer.

68. (New): The method of claim 55, wherein said specimen buffer contains a salt.

69. (New): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen buffer contains an animal globulin.

70. (New): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen buffer contains a surfactant.

71. (New): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen buffer contains a water-soluble polymer.

72. (New): The method of claim 60, wherein said specimen buffer contains a salt.